

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting
April 4, 2012 MINUTES
Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe De Vito Chair, Anthony Bibbo, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Jeff Mace, Ellen Manning, Terrance Sack, Kirsten Tuohy
Staff: Ruth Hoshino
Guests: Tom Pomeroy, Deb Darcy (Juvenile Probation Officer), Andrew Messinger, Blanca Tosado,
Students: Teekhon Davidoff, Zachary Eagle, Joseph Goodman, Jay Sobel, Erin Katzeff

The meeting was opened at 7:10 PM and chaired by Joe DeVito
A vote to accept the minutes of March 7, 2012 was passed.

Treasurer's Report: The budget for FY 2012 operating budget is \$2500. The expenses to date are for: E-Chug, Improbable Players, Intern meeting refreshments, Business card advertising for E-Chug, School newspaper advertisement for E-Chug, Portable hard drive. The current balance is \$593.39.

Business:

- 10th Annual Youth Service Award –

The past recipients are: Anthony Bibbo, Peter Harrington, Lowell Haynes, Judy Malone Neville, David Sellers Sr., Deb D'Arcy, Bussy Adams, Stephan Ross, and Larry Allen.

Nominations for the award are:

Pat Vello – principal at the high school Springboard program

Kathy Davieau – former NSHS housemaster

Tom Pomeroy – advisor to Mayor's Public Service Interns

Chris Fortunato – Leader of Mayor's Public Service Interns

Some of these nominees are unfamiliar to members of the commission and background information is requested before an informed vote can be made. The criterion for selecting a recipient is not clear. A question was raised about whether this is considered a "lifetime achievement" award. Ruth will compile a summary of each nominee and send it electronically.

- ❖ Mayor's Public Service Internship Program Update –

- The students (named Newton's Teen Voice) have been meeting every week to work of the narrative project. A recorded interview day took place in February and another one is scheduled for this month. This material will be edited into a documentary style 25 minute film (a 2 minute trailer will also be created). It will be used during the planned Youth Summit -fall 2012 and may be entered into a high school documentary/ PSA (Public Service Announcement) competition. Recording has been done with personal computers, video cameras and smart phones. The editing will be done in a school editing lab.

A brief audio excerpt was played. The topics covered in the interview day were: school spirit, social events, pep rallies, alcohol use, LBTG (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender). The teens report that the first interview day went well; volunteers joined in and seemed to like the process. They anticipate another good session this month and hope to have 10-15 teen volunteers participate.

- **e-CHUG:** This is an interactive web survey that allows students to enter information about their drinking patterns and receive feedback about their use of alcohol. The goal of this program is to reduce serious risk related to drinking alcohol. It is customized to Newton and can be used to get feedback about the individual or someone else's (friend, family

member, etc.) alcohol use. No personal identifying information is used and no tracking or tracing is done. There is concern about recent enhancements to the questions that add to the length of the survey making it too long. This will be communicated to San Diego State University – the creator of e-CHUG.

Advertising cards are ready for distribution – approval has been obtained at South, still working on approval at North. A slide show will be shown on the South cafeteria video screen to help get the word out. The website is newtonechug.com

The group is considering merchandise items as incentives to use e-CHUG and participate in narrative project.

- **Leadership:** A plan is being discussed to arrange a leadership institute by the Harvard Kennedy School Public Service Program. Thirty – forty Newton teens (including all of the Youth Commission interns) would meet with faculty and speakers from the Harvard Kennedy School on Saturday, April 28th. They will discuss leadership and possibly public speaking. Transportation will be a bus from city hall to Cambridge and back. Newton's Teen Voice can be followed on twitter, tumblr and facebook.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. **The next meeting is Wednesday, May 2, 2012 at 7 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Hoshino